

Bronco Marching Band celebrated its 100th season on the field. As a former member of the Michigan Marching Band, I can attest that no college football game day is complete without the sights and sounds of a marching band, particularly in Michigan. Since its inception in 1915, the Bronco Marching Band has been a staple within the greater Kalamazoo and Michigan communities, and a fixture on WMU's campus, both at home and away sporting events, and at many other university occasions, such as its Annual Concert open to all members of the community. The BMB Football Pre-game and Half-time Performances are honored as recognizing timely and creative themes, regularly recognizing the BMB as "The Best Band in the MAC." The Bronco Marching Band serves as the keeper and curator of WMU traditions, providing the expected soundtrack for returning alumni in a way that recordings cannot. Its performances off campus have even broader impact through parades, exhibitions, and community service, including performances and media appearances in numerous Kalamazoo Holiday Events. Over the years, the BMB has also brought national attention to Michigan, Kalamazoo, and WMU during appearances at the International Bowl, Texas Bowl, Little Caesar's Pizza Bowl, Famous Idaho Potato Bowls (2), Cotton Bowl, First Responder Bowl, and the Quick Lane Bowl in Detroit. The BMB's dedicated 300+ members and staff, and thousands of BMB Alumni, have brought joy and Bronco Spirit to millions over the past century with hits such as "I've Got a Girl in Kalamazoo," and "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight," as well as the beloved Bronco Fight Song. Congratulations again to the WMU Bronco Marching Band on this major milestone. I look forward to seeing what you achieve in the next 100 years. Go Broncos.

THE U.S. ECONOMY REMAINS #1 IN 2021, BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR FUTURE?

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following op-ed.

MANY PUBLIC POLICY CONCERNS

While many public policy issues are greatly concerning—from COVID-19 to the crisis at our southern border to education gaps relative to our ability to compete economically—in our opinion, the following three are paramount for the U.S. Congress and Biden Administration.

THE SHRINKING INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES AND NORTH AMERICA

In 1960, North American total global GDP was \$597.42 billion or 43.7%, with the U.S. contributing \$543 billion or just under 40 percent of the total global GDP of \$1.367 trillion (China's 1960 global GDP by comparison was \$59.72 billion or 4.39%).

China's 2021 global GDP grew to about \$16.86 trillion or 17.86% of total global GDP. Comparatively, 2021 North American GDP declined to 27.9% of total global GDP, while Asia—led by China, Japan, India, and South Korea—produced 33.7% of global GDP and extended its faster growth pace lead to more than two decades.

AN OBJECTIVE AND REALISTIC VIEW OF CHINA IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER IN WASHINGTON D.C.

On December 29, 2021 the Chinese Communist Party ordered Hong Kong police to raid the headquarters of Stand News, a pro-democracy Hong Kong-based news service critical of government policy coming out of Beijing. Seven Stand employees were arrested, and all remaining employees were dismissed. China's action is another violation of the Sino-British agreement signed in 1997 giving Hong Kong economic and political freedom until 2047. The West, and especially the United States, must not continue to turn a blind eye toward China's treatment of Hong Kong.

We also must reverse the current trend which has allowed China to gain superior numbers of military assets to ours in the South China Sea and off the coasts of our numerous Asian allies. As tensions grow with China over Taiwan, we must acknowledge Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's comment: "the U.S. will pay an unbearable price" if we continue to support Taiwan. Our response must speak with conviction and specificity of the consequences China will suffer economically and potentially militarily if it moves against Taiwan, an important U.S. economic partner and champion of freedom and free enterprise.

With shortages of face masks to battle COVID-19 and computer chip delays that have challenged American automobile manufacturers, it should be apparent to both U.S. producers and consumers that U.S. businesses must rethink their previous supply chain strategy and be encouraged to produce more necessities at home.

Further, we must rally the world and hold China responsible for the COVID-19 outbreak and its consequences. It's the right thing to do and the only way to prevent a future outbreak.

We applaud Congress for passing a bill targeting China over Uyghur-forced labor practices. The measure prohibits imports from the Xinjiang region of China unless companies can prove the products were made without forced labor. We hope President Biden signs it immediately and more is done by the U.S. government and U.S. corporations to protect the rights and freedoms of Muslim Uyghurs living in China.

Broadening our view of China further, The Hill recently posited: Should a weakening and unstable Chinese economic model be as great a concern as a rising China? The answer is yes. China's concern over energy shortages, slowing economic growth and productivity, and debt now at 290% of GDP, demonstrates that confidence in the Chinese economic and political structure is teetering from within. In addition, recent crackdowns on the property and technology sectors will result in less flexibility and greater economic authoritarianism control over two sectors that account for 29 percent of Chinese GDP.

Our concerns regarding Chinese economic stability and their ability to execute their 5-year planning model hopefully will be a cause for concern within the greater Communist Party of China. Exposing the growing fragility and incompetence of the Chinese economic model could provide a boost for pro-market reform party members as they vote at the 2022 Communist Party Congress this fall. Open, honest and regular communication of China's current economic structural weaknesses could help market-friendly party members use data to thwart Xi Jinping's ambition to be only the third leader in the party's 100-year history elected to a third term. Perhaps a modern Chinese version of 'Radio-free Europe' would be useful in the months ahead?

U.S. ENERGY POLICY CONTINUES TO MAKE NO SENSE TO US

Oil prices continue to fluctuate, declining to the mid-\$60's range weeks ago only to rebound to more than \$77 a barrel currently. Many energy experts believe oil could trade at more than \$100 a barrel in 2022 if the Biden Administration continues its illogical energy policy. Remember that U.S. oil and natural gas are among the cleanest carbon-based fuels by category available in the world today. In fact, U.S. production of clean fossil fuels has dramatically reduced the U.S. carbon footprint, making it the global leader in carbon reduction in the industrialized world over the last 30 years. However, if cleaner U.S. oil and natural gas continue to be removed from the U.S. and world markets due to the Biden Administration's policies, five nonsensical results will occur: 1) The policy will enhance the political and public policy initiatives of countries unfriendly to democracy like Russia and Iran; 2) European allies will become more dependent on unfriendly nations for their oil and natural gas needs, thereby weakening the security and economic prowess of Europe and the United States; 3) More "dirtier" Russian and Iranian oil and natural gas on global markets coupled with less from the U.S. means a sustained increase of lower quality and higher polluting fossil fuel products on global energy markets (in effect, the Biden Administration's policy will increase the global carbon footprint rather than reduce it, making the policy anti-green rather than the pro-green policy it's currently being promoted to represent); 4) The policy will employ thousands of Russians and Iranians in high-paying oil industry-related jobs when those good jobs could be here in the United States with workers paying taxes to the United States; and, 5) Billions of dollars of local, state and federal tax revenue from U.S. oil companies will be lost to the U.S. government at all levels in the months and years ahead.

CONCLUSION

The U.S. National Debt currently stands at \$29.62 trillion (over \$89,000 per U.S. man, woman, and child and just under \$237,000 per U.S. taxpayer). Much of the current state of our national debt is due to excessive government spending on programs that are not needed while taking capital from private sector investments and U.S. national defense. It is crucial that U.S. fiscal, monetary and foreign policy focus on strategies that will grow U.S. capital investment, private sector job and economic growth, while defending the United States and our key allies. This is the only way to ensure that the United States will remain the world's only economic and military superpower.

BROOKWOOD FLORIDA'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brookwood Florida on 95 years of service. Brookwood Florida provides a home for girls, diverted by abuse, neglect, or family dysfunction, in which they learn to be self-sufficient and successful. They provide a unique, life-changing residential program for non-pregnant, non-addicted, at-risk girls between the ages of 13 and 21. Serving approximately 125 girls per year who have suffered abuse, neglect, homelessness, and

serious family dysfunction with a community-based program providing 24/7 care to help their clients move steadily toward self-sufficiency and reintegration within the community. I thank Brookwood Florida for their dedication to serving those in Tampa Bay and wish them continued success.

HONORING MR. J. DAVID
VANDERVEEN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. J. David VanderVeen on his retirement after 55 years of devoted service as director of Oakland County International Airport.

Mr. VanderVeen first took the reins as director of the airport on February 25, 1967—several years before the position of Oakland County county executive was even established. Since then, he's served under three elected county executives, seven Michigan governors, and a whopping eleven presidential administrations. Madam Speaker, to put this into perspective, Mr. VanderVeen has helmed the county airport longer than one-third of the Members of this Chamber have been alive.

However, beyond his record-breaking tenure, Mr. VanderVeen's accomplishments in that time truly stand out. Today, the runways at Oakland County International Airport capably handle an average of 120,000 takeoffs and landings per year, ranking it the twelfth-busiest general aviation airport in the world. In addition, over 150 corporations and more than 554 aircraft have entrusted the airport to serve as a base of operations, which contributes \$1 billion annually to the local economy of southeast Michigan.

Even our state's notorious winter storms, the bane of so many airports across the Midwest, have been no match for Mr. VanderVeen. Among his proudest achievements is that the runways never once closed due to snow or ice—the airport's steadfast ground crews have worked around the clock to keep them operational, including in 1982 when football fans flew in from all over the country to see Super Bowl XVI at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Simply put, for more than half a century, Mr. VanderVeen's leadership has been a touchstone of Oakland County government. He doesn't just have institutional knowledge, he is the institution. And while others may have come and gone, Mr. VanderVeen has remained at his post, helping his colleagues as they navigate the challenges of a dynamic county and growing community.

Several years ago, when Oakland County's first county executive, Daniel T. Murphy, passed away, Mr. VanderVeen spoke at a service for his former boss, remarking that, "Dan Murphy set the bar high for political leaders in this state."

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that, like Mr. Murphy, Mr. VanderVeen has similarly set the bar high for public servants—both in our state and across our nation. He has been an instrumental part of the county's success story, and there is no question he leaves his successor enormous shoes to fill.

While I understand that Mr. VanderVeen will continue to represent the current county executive on the county's parks and recreation and airport committees, I know I speak for everyone when I say that he's more than earned some well-deserved time off.

To his friends and loved ones, particularly his wife, Shelagh, his four children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, may they enjoy the time they now have to spend with him. And to all of my colleagues, may we take a page from Mr. VanderVeen's playbook and strive, as he did, to always put service before self. It's my honor to spotlight his incredible accomplishments.

HONORING AND COMMENDING THE
WORK OF GRANT DUBOIS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the work of Mr. Grant Dubois in his tenure as the President of the Rockwall County Republican Men's Club.

Mr. Dubois has served as the Rockwall County Republican Men's Club for three consecutive years from 2019 to 2021 and was the youngest President in the club's history. As President, he facilitated a change in meeting venues from city park to a larger, more accommodating facility located in downtown Rockwall. The change in venue allowed for the club's growth.

Mr. Dubois also oversaw the two most successful fundraising golf tournaments the club has ever hosted. This golf tournament is named in honor of former member Ralph Hall. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment in his three years as the President of the Rockwall County Republican Men's Club is the record breaking growth in club membership. Despite the constraints of the pandemic, his tenure saw the club grow from 130 members to over 200.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize the devotion of Mr. Grant Dubois to the Rockwall County Republican Men's Club. May God bless him and the future of the Rockwall County Republican Men's Club.

CELEBRATING THE TRICENTEN-
NIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS, NEW
HAMPSHIRE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the tricentennial anniversary of the establishment of the Town of Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. Known as the Third Parish of Hampton prior to 1722, Hampton Falls was aptly renamed after falls on the Taylor River, their water used to power the watermills central to the town's early industries.

The earliest residents of Hampton Falls worked on farms and in the timber industry.

The town has stayed close to these roots, remaining heavily invested in farmland. Hampton Falls is home to Applecrest Orchards, the town's largest employer, New Hampshire's oldest and largest orchard and the oldest continuously operated orchard in the nation.

In 1735, a mere 13 years after its establishment, Hampton Falls fell victim to a horrible bout of Throat Distemper that caused more than 200 deaths in the small population of less than 500, and that left only two homes in the community untouched. Since those troubling times, the town has flourished, reaching a population of more than 2,300. Hampton Falls is a small but mighty town, dedicated to maintaining its lands and protecting our environment. If the past three centuries are any indication on the future, Hampton Falls is sure to persevere and prosper for years to come.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate the Town of Hampton Falls on this incredible milestone. I look forward to a continued partnership with Hampton Falls and its residents who I am proud to represent in Congress.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOELY
PROUDFIT AS MY CONSTITUENT
OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Carlsbad resident, educator, and fierce advocate for Indigenous peoples, Dr. Joely Proudfit, for my December Constituent of the Month. A Native Southern Californian and a Luiseño/Payómkawichum woman, Dr. Proudfit first tapped into her passion for activism in college as a way for her to stay connected to her Native ancestry and support Native peoples. As the first member of her family to complete a high school diploma, and now a renowned and tenured professor, Dr. Proudfit has dedicated her life's work to furthering the education and promotion of proper representation for Native Americans and Indigenous peoples in media and society.

Dr. Proudfit strives to serve as a role model to Native youth by encouraging all who enter her classroom that anyone can achieve success with self-determination and a desire for knowledge. Dr. Proudfit also uses her platform as an educator and highly visible advocate to shed light on the harmful stereotypes and false narratives perpetuated around American Indians and to change perceptions of tribal communities.

What makes California's 49th District so special is the rich blending of cultures, backgrounds, and walks of life throughout our communities. The voices and stories of Native Americans have fallen to the shadows far too often. I am so grateful to have leaders and role models like Dr. Proudfit who are the voices we need for these communities to be seen and heard. The contributions and voices of Native and Indigenous peoples are fundamental to our national story, and Dr. Proudfit's work to lift up tribal communities has made our community and our country stronger. I'm proud to recognize her as my December Constituent of the Month.